

Glendale Unified School District

Senior High School

June 8, 2004

Department: History/Social Science
Course Title: Contemporary World Affairs
Course Number: 6125
Grade Level: 9
Credits: 5
Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This class emphasizes current world issues from 1945 to the present day. The focus of the historical material will be post-WWII and will be built on the foundation of political, geographic, economic, and religious systems. The course will also include information about the Cold War era, collapse of the Soviet Union, and information revolution. Study skills will be embedded throughout the course. This class contains the essential features of guidance-service learning, four-year high school plan, personal finance, and post-high school choices.

I. Goals

Students will:

- A. Develop an ability to analyze historical evidence.
- B. Develop a knowledge base of the post-WWII era.
- C. Develop skills for transition to high school environment.
- D. Develop an international understanding to become more active citizens.

II. Outline of Content

A. Political systems

Students will:

1. Evaluate the basic aspects and benefits of monarchy, authoritarian, totalitarian, and democratic forms of government.

B. Economic systems

Students will:

1. Understand the basic principles of capitalism including private property, profit motive, and the role of the government in the economy.
2. Analyze aspects of communism including the role of the government, lack of property rights, and individual rights.
3. Evaluate the ideas of socialism as an economic system.

C. World religions

Students will:

1. Analyze the origins and philosophies of the world's religions including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.
2. Relate the major religions with the structure of a society's government and social system.

D. Geography

Students will:

1. Map and be familiar with the countries, capitals, and waterways of the world.

E. International developments from World War II to the present

Students will:

1. Analyze the emergence of the Soviet Union and the United States as superpowers after World War II.
2. Consider the principles of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan as they relate to the prevention of the spread of communism.
3. Summarize challenges to Soviet domination in Eastern Europe including the uprisings in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.
4. Analyze the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Bloc in 1991.

F. The formation of nations in the developing world

Students will:

1. Investigate studies on nation building in the post-WWII world focusing on the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia.
2. Associate the politics, economies, and religious struggles of the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia.

G. Information revolution

Students will:

1. Analyze the information revolution as it relates to communication, population growth, interdependence, and the world economy.

H. Guidance essentials

Students will:

1. Participate in a service learning project.
2. Draft a resume, participate in a mock interview, and explore different careers.
3. Use the computer software "Choices" to gain knowledge about post-high school opportunities in education and careers.
4. Work with counselors to develop each student's four-year high school plan.
5. Analyze personal finance and budgeting including stocks, bonds, savings, investing, and retirement.

III. Assessment of Student Learning

- A. Tests which are published and/or teacher-made.
- B. Current events assignments which demonstrate the ability to analyze and evaluate information.
- C. Classroom participation in discussion, debate, and problem solving.

D. Additional evidence of learning based on projects, reports, or computer-based multimedia presentation.

IV. Suggested Time Distribution

A.	Political systems	1 week, 2 days
B.	Economic systems	1 week, 1 day
C.	World religions	1 week, 2 days
D.	Geography	1 week
E.	International developments from World War II to the present	5 weeks, 3 days
F.	The formation of nations in the developing world	2 weeks
G.	Information revolution	2 days
H.	Guidance essentials	4 weeks

V. Recommended Materials

- A. The World Today, by Henry Brun. Published by Amsco School Publications, 2002.
- B. The Nuclear Age, by various authors. Published by Greenhaven Press, 2002.